



**BOROUGH OF NEATH**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**and**

**Chief Sanitary Inspector**

**FOR THE YEAR 1931**



# BOROUGH OF NEATH.



*With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health.*

DYFED ROAD,  
NEATH

Telephone :  
NEATH 458.





**BOROUGH OF NEATH**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR 1951**

**H. R. STUBBINS, M.D., D.Ph.**

“ The public health is the foundation upon which rests the happiness and the  
“ welfare of the Nation ”

*Disraeli.*

# BOROUGH OF NEATH

## Members of the Neath Borough Council for the Year 1951

---

<i>Mayor</i>	Councillor Ben Morris, J.P.
<i>Deputy Mayor</i>	Councillor Percy A. Bishop.
<i>Aldermen</i> .....	Phil Howells, R. W. Perrott, J. E. Emanuel, S. Len. Burton, J.P., E. C. Hutchinson, T. Hughes, J.P.
<i>Councillors</i>	G. Howard Davies, A. R. Harris, J. W. Jones, W. K. Owen, J.P. R. Smith, B. Sutcliffe, E. Cledwyn Davies, Frank Evans, W. R. Francis, D. C. Griffiths, Gilbert J. Rosser, W. S. Watkins, J.P., R. A. Bishop, C. J. Gaze, W. T. A. Phillips, Eleazer Thomas, Charles E. Williams.

### MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

<i>Chairman</i>	Alderman T. Hughes, J.P.
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Councillor W. S. Watkins, J.P.
<i>Members</i> ....	All members of the Council.

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR 1951.

<i>Medical Officer</i>	Haydn R. Stubbins, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Wales).
<i>Sanitary Inspectors</i>	Evan Thomas, <i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i> . R. T. Probert, D. J. Howells, T. G. Hopkins, <i>Certificated Meat and Sanitary Inspectors</i> .
<i>Clerk</i>	D. J. Williams.

# BOROUGH OF NEATH

---

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

NEATH,

Glam.

August, 1951

*Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Howells and Gentlemen,*

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

The Report deals with the vital statistics for this year and although they may seem uninteresting if studied carefully they reveal information which is of great importance to you as administrators and guardians of the health and well being of some thirty thousand persons.

In February of this year a census of the population of England and Wales was taken. This revealed that the population of Neath Borough was 31,850, a reduction of 381 on the Registrar's figures for 1950.

The Birth-rate at 14.25 per thousand of the population continues to decrease and can be compared with 15.73 per thousand of the population in 1950.

The Death Rate at 13.97 per thousand of the population remains practically the same as last year. This year again as in the last three years, three quarters of the deaths were in persons over sixty years of age. No longer is the age of three score years and ten to be considered an achievement.

This kind of longevity is causing some concern in-so-far that, with our declining birthrate and increased ageing of the population a time must inevitably arrive when a smaller proportion of active people must work increasingly harder to support the greater proportion of non-active persons.

There are many reasons to explain the added years that the average man enjoys. He is living under better economic and hygienic conditions and also there are large numbers of people who are living useful lives today who not long ago would have died from illnesses that medical science with its newly discovered drugs, and skill, are now able to cure.

## **MATERNAL MORTALITY.**

One death due to causes associated with childbirth was recorded during the year. It is not so many years ago that one death only, from these causes would have been regarded as most satisfactory but having had no maternal deaths during the last four years one does feel rather disappointed. It should, however be recorded that all the skill and knowledge which the present services provide were used.

## **INFANTILE MORTALITY.**

48.46 per thousand live births was our Infantile Mortality rate for 1951. This, when compared with 27.61 per thousand live births for 1950, does not sound too well. Although not the highest in the County of Glamorgan, it is disappointingly high in view of our previous records of low infantile mortality rates.



I should perhaps explain that the infantile mortality rate is computed from the annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age to every thousand live births. During the year twenty two infants died before reaching their first birthday. The actual causes of death are tabulated in the report. It should be noted that five infants died from congenital deformities, a cause over which ~~we~~ there is ~~have~~ no control. Nine infants died from Prematurity. Until a few years ago death from prematurity was looked upon with equanimity but today, with the premature unit at the General Hospital and the provision which is made for nursing these delicate babies at their homes, may explain why only nine premature infants died out of a total of thirty-six born.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

It has been noted that for some years now the old common infectious fevers were losing their virulence and, in one case, virtually disappearing. I am referring especially to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Scarlet Fever used to be regarded as a dangerous infectious disease with serious complications if not properly treated. Now, with the advent of Penicillin and the Sulpha drugs, combined with the fact that it is of a much milder nature, nursing many of these cases at home is enabled if reasonable nursing facilities are available.

Diphtheria on the other hand is fast disappearing. It is amazing to think that in 1951, there were no notifications at all, whereas in 1940, 98 cases were notified, with four deaths. The situation is now being reached where the eradication of Diphtheria can be foreseen as a very real possibility, but there must be no complacency as a result of these figures. Parents must know why the disease has been virtually conquered and the importance of immunisation constantly stressed.

### **WHOOING COUGH AND MEASLES.**

101 cases of Whooping Cough were notified and 164 cases of Measles. There was one death. These two infectious diseases can, by their complications be dangerous in the very young. The Family Doctor should be consulted in the early stages of the disease.

### **HOUSING.**

I am glad to be able to report that during 1951, 173 houses were completed and occupied, with a further 71 partly completed. These were much better figures than were reported in 1950. Very few people realize the difficulties that have to be overcome in the Borough before actual building begins. Suitable building sites are practically non-existent and eyes are being cast for sites outside the Borough boundary upon which municipal houses can be built at a cost which would reflect itself in an economic rent.

The list of housing applicants seems to get longer and longer as the years go by and with the older houses getting into disrepair, I doubt if any of us will be alive to see the solution of this problem.

However material and labour seem to be in better supply and with the removal of many of the restrictions matters are still pressing on, I am sure that most of the Engineer's waking thoughts are made up of how many houses can be built this year and where they can be built.

### **TUBERCULOSIS.**

63 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and eight cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were thirteen deaths of the pulmonary type and three deaths of the non-pulmonary type. These were six less than 1950. The year brought with it the discovery of a new drug for combating this disease. Claims were made which raised ~~our~~ hopes that at last we had obtained the answer to counter tuberculosis, but after extensive trials the experts have given it as their opinion that this new drug can be useful as an additional part of their armamentarium, but was not of itself the cure hoped for.

Surgery of the Chest is playing an increasingly important part in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis and at the time of writing a Consulting Thoracic Surgeon has been appointed by the Hospital Management Committee for the Cimla Hospital.

From the preventive aspect of the disease every case notified to us is visited periodically by a Health Visitor, advice is given to the patient and family with regard to the danger of spreading the infection. Contacts are reported to the Chest Physician who makes appointments for them to be examined and X-rayed. The housing conditions are looked into and, if not satisfactory, the case is reported to the Housing Committee where a degree of priority is given to the applicant.

It is now a recognised fact that those who live closely with tuberculous parents are five times more liable to catch the disease and to these B.C.G. vaccination is offered. In susceptible persons this gives a degree of protection against tuberculosis. One difficulty that does arise in those who receive B.C.G. vaccination is that the person vaccinated must avoid contact with an infected person until the protection has been built up in the body. This is difficult if you consider that many of the patients live in overcrowded and unsatisfactory homes. Relatives help out, especially as the necessary period of conversion is about six weeks.

## **REVIEW OF DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTERED DURING 1951.**

In view of the fact that representatives of the Council are members of the Divisional Health Committee, it is fitting that some information on the work of the Health Division should be included in this report.

As you are aware, the County Council in their scheme of Divisional Administration, delegated certain powers to the Divisional Health Committee. This included the day-to-day administration of the Home Nursing, Midwifery Service, Vaccination and Immunisation, Care and After-Care, the care of mothers and Young Children, Health Visitors Service, Dental care and the Home Help Service. It is with these services that I wish to deal

### **HOME NURSING—SECTION 25.**

There has been excellent work carried out by the staff of thirteen Home Nurses during the past year and there is every indication of an increasing demand for Domiciliary Nursing.

It appears that the continued increase of work is largely attributed to the following factors :—

- (a) The shortage of hospital beds for the chronic sick with the resultant necessity of more patients being nursed at home.
- (b) The increase in the practice of tuberculous patients receiving streptomycin, now administered by Home Nurses, whilst awaiting admission to Sanatoria.

The Family Doctor relies to a great extent on the services of the Home Nurse following the early discharge of patients from hospital and in this type of case the Home Nursing Service is closely allied to the Home Help Service.

The undermentioned statistical information will give the Committee some idea of the volume of work undertaken during the past year and it may be as well to bear in mind that its continual growth may necessitate a review of the staffing position in the future.

### Year Ended 31st December, 1951.

Number of Cases attended .....	1250
Number of Visits paid during the year .....	41530
Number of Visits paid by Home Nurses to Tuberculous Patients .....	2579

### MIDWIFERY SERVICE—SECTION 23.

Unfortunately, there is a decline in the number of cases attended by the Domiciliary Midwife, and the tendency today is for expectant mothers to seek hospitalisation for their confinement. The reasons for this can be divided into the following categories:—

- (a) Since the introduction of the National Health Service Act, 1946, people are more hospital minded.
- (b) There is a lack of suitable accommodation.
- (c) There are also economic advantages of having a child in Hospital.

Advantage has been taken of utilizing the services of midwives to relieve their colleagues and to assist the Home Nurses during very busy periods. On one occasion it was necessary to call upon the "Flying Squad" from the Neath General Hospital in a case of complication. All midwives are in attendance at Ante-Natal Clinics where their patients are seen and during the past year there were 410 domiciliary confinements in which gas and air was administered on 208 occasions.

### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

There has been a very low percentage of vaccinations and re-vaccinations in 1951, the total number in this Division being 445 and, indeed, it is a matter of concern that there has been such a poor response. The fact that there is now no statutory obligation for children to be vaccinated and, add to this the probable reluctance of the parents to attend with their children at the crowded surgeries of the medical practitioners, may be the factors for a decline in this form of treatment.

Immunisation, on the other hand, maintains its high percentage. During 1951, immunisation of 2,503 included those at school of five and ten years of age, and is satisfactory.

I have been informed that during 1951, 55 children have received B.C.G. inoculation as a preventive against Tuberculosis.

### CARE AND AFTER-CARE—MEDICAL COMFORTS.

This service which was taken over in May, 1950, from the Voluntary Agencies is meeting greater demands by the public.

Such requisites as bedpans, waterproof sheeting, crutches, invalid chairs and air rings appear to be continually required and it has been found necessary to replenish the stock of these articles on several occasions. Satisfactory arrangements are now being made for returned articles found to require cleansing.

The one difficulty—if it may be called such—experienced since the service was instituted has been to impress the public with the necessity of returning articles immediately they are no longer required. This problem has been partly overcome by regular reminders being despatched but on occasions it has been found necessary to make personal visits.



## CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN—HEALTH VISITING SERVICE.

Since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the duties of the Health Visitor are wide and varied and she is now concerned with the health and welfare of the family as a whole. The functions devolving upon a Health Visitor include:—

Visits to children up to five years of age ; investigations of family history and household circumstances of prospective adopters ; visits to Tuberculous households and observation of environmental circumstances ; investigations and reports of cases registered as problem families and of those expectant mothers, referred by Assistant Medical Officers and others who have made application for admission to hospital for confinement. Health Visitors are always in attendance at Infant Welfare, Ante and Post Natal and Mothers' Clinics, and hereunder are some relevant statistics affecting the work of the Health Visitors in this Division.

### NUMBER OF VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS DURING THE YEAR :

<i>Expectant Mothers.</i>	<i>Children under 1 year.</i>	<i>Children 1—5 years</i>	<i>Other Cases</i>	<i>Total Visits.</i>
1033	6809	10938	3907	22687

### ANTE-NATAL AND POST NATAL CLINICS.

	<i>No. of Women who attended during the year</i>	<i>Total number of attendances by women during the year.</i>
Ante-Natal Clinics	1452	5516
Post-Natal Clinics	145	151

### CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

Number of children who attended clinics during the year	3506
Total number of attendances of children during the year	20196

It will be observed that the Health Visitor has a variety of duties insofar as they affect the Mother and Child and a close watch is kept on the many problems that arise from so wide a supervisory field.

There is, of course, no limit to the scope to which the knowledge of the Health Visitor can be applied to mention only a few — care of aged and infirm ; mental deficiency ; follow-up of adult patients discharged from Hospital, etc., ; which could adequately be met by the Health Visiting staff when the time and staffing position allow.

### DENTAL CARE.

As the Committee are aware, the Local Health Authority is responsible for the dental care of expectant mothers and young children and during 1951, 2 mothers and 138 young children under five years of age, received dental treatment.

With the advent of charges being levied upon the supply of dentures and as a result of the recent decision to impose a fee for extractions, etc., it is contemplated that the number of patients will increase.

At the present moment there is, fortunately, sufficient dental staff to meet the demands.

## HOME HELP SERVICE.

In reviewing the above service, it is essential to note the extent to which it has extended since its inception in July, 1948. At that time there were only two Home Helps on the establishment who were transferred from the Neath Rural District Council under the Act, and were only rendering occasional service.

At the present time the authorised establishment for this Division is twenty four full time Home Helps and thirty three Home Helps are now employed which includes full, part-time and casual employees. On an average, these thirty three Home Helps are undertaking work in one hundred cases, with a varied amount of hours allocated to each household. Strict attention is paid to the need of each applicant with a resultant economy in both staff and time.

During the year, 1951, the following types of cases were assisted:—

Maternity	30
Tuberculosis	5
Others	134

(Included aged and infirm, Chronic sick and blind).

It will be observed from these figures that the Home Help Service is playing a major part in assisting the chronic sick, aged and blind and it is apparent from letters received how greatly this service is appreciated.

In September, 1951, the County Council introduced a new method of assessment of repayment, the administration of which involved added clerical duties at the Divisional Office. It necessitated reviewing and investigating all cases receiving assistance at that time and at three monthly intervals thereafter.

It was a decision of the appropriate Committee that the new scales of repayment be allowed to operate for 12 months and then to be further considered but it is found that several anomalies are already apparent.

In the past year during which time both the old and new scales functioned the number of applicants who were called upon to contribute towards the cost of the service were as follows:—

Full cost	20	Part cost	66
-----------	----	-----------	----

Since the new method of assessing the charges, requests have been received to entirely withdraw the Home Help due to the increased amount of expense involved and other applicants have reduced their allocation of time to a minimum requirement, even though the need existed for a Home Help to be in attendance.

It has previously been suggested that the collection of accounts could be administered from Divisional Office, and there are advantages which recommend this method

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, Mr. Mayor, and the Members of the Council for their encouragement and the Members of the staff of the Health Department for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. STUBBINS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

#### GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area (In acres) Including foreshore	5040
Excluding foreshore	4502
Rateable Value	£169,968
Sum produced by Penny Rate	£645
Population—Registrar's Figures for 1951.	31850

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY,  
AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	England & Wales.	126 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Popu- lation of 25—50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	NEATH
		RATES	PER	1000	POPULATION
<b>BIRTHS</b>					
Live Births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8	14.25
Still Births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37	0.37
<b>DEATHS :</b>					
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1	13.97
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38	0.41
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23	0.65
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.56
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected) :</b>					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.09
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10	0.40
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11	3.17
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64	5.74
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72	0.28
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Non-Paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23	0.00
	RATES	PER	1,000	LIVE	BIRTHS
<b>DEATHS :</b>					
All causes under 1 yr.	29.6 (a)	33.9	27.6	26.4	48.45
Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 yrs. of age.	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7	6.6
	RATES PER	1,000 (Live	and Still)	Births.	
<b>Notifications (Corrected)</b>					
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90	0.00

**Causes of Death** FIGURES GIVEN BY REGISTRAR-GENERAL :

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	5	8	13
Tuberculosis, other .....	1	2	3
Syphilitic disease .....	1	0	1
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	—	1	1
Meningococcal infections .....	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0
Measles .....	1	0	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	10	4	14
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus .....	5	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .....	18	13	31
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	2	1	3
Diabetes .....	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	24	15	39
Coronary disease, angina .....	32	17	49
Hypertension with heart disease .....	7	1	8
Other heart disease .....	38	36	74
Other circulatory disease .....	8	12	20
Influenza .....	8	13	21
Pneumonia .....	13	5	18
Bronchitis .....	19	11	30
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	3	1	4
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea .....	1	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	1	6	7
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	9	0	9
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	0	1	1
Congenital malformations .....	3	2	5
Other defined and ill defined diseases .....	30	27	57
Motor Vehicle accidents .....	2	1	3
All other accidents .....	9	3	12
Suicide .....	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war .....	0	0	0
<b>ALL CAUSES</b> .....	<b>253</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>445</b>

**Births.**

The number of live births in the Borough was 454, made up of 247 males and 207 females, giving a birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of 14.5.



Year.	<i>Birth-rate.</i>	Year.	<i>Birth-rate.</i>
1951	14.25	1937	14.7
1950	15.73	1936	15.5
1949	15.9	1935	15.5
1948	18.3	1934	15.1
1947	20.1	1933	13.5
1946	19.1	1932	16.0
1945	16.0	1931	14.1
1944	18.2	1930	16.8
1943	14.5	1929	16.9
1942	16.1	1928	16.7
1941	13.9	1927	17.0
1940	13.3	1926	18.2
1939	13.9	1925	22.0
1938	14.9		

### **Illegitimate Births.**

The total number of illegitimate births registered as referring to residents of the Borough was 12, showing an increase of 4 compared with 1950, and giving a rate of 26.43 total live births.

The total number of illegitimate children born in the Borough during the past ten years was :

1941	9	1947	12
1942	14	1948	9
1943	17	1949	13
1944	15	1950	8
1945	27	1951	12
1946	22		

Health Visitors have special instructions with regard to illegitimate children and in all cases they have reported that conditions affecting the children and their homes are satisfactory

### **Stillbirths.**

The number of stillbirths was 12, giving a rate of 25.75 per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and 0.37 per 1,000 population.

### **Deaths.**

The number of deaths registered during the year of all ages was 445, 253 males and 192 females. This gives a death-rate of 13.97 and maybe compared with previous years in the following table :—

1950	13.56	1944	12.2
1949	11.8	1943	12.4
1948	12.1	1942	11.9
1947	12.6	1941	14.7
1946	12.8	1940	13.7
1945	12.6		

The Ward distribution of deaths was as follows:—

North Ward .....	175
South Ward .....	158
Briton Ferry Ward .....	112

The Table on page 12 gives classification of the causes of death as recorded by the Registrar General. Age groups are given below:—

Under 1 year	22	40—45 years	12
1—5 years	3	45—50 years	11
5—10 years	2	50—55 years	20
10—15 years	2	55—60 years	40
15—20 years	2	60—70 years	119
20—25 years	1	70—80 years	125
25—30 years	2	80—90 years	76
30—35 years	2	Over 90 years	3
35—40 years	3		

#### Cancer Deaths.

The age distribution was as follows:—

<i>Ages</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under 2 years. ....	1	—
25—35 years	—	—
35—45 years	1	—
45—55 years	1	3
55—65 years	12	9
65—75 years	10	7
75—85 years	7	5
Over 85 years	1	—
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>

#### Deaths by Violence.

The number of deaths by violence was 17. The following Table gives the causes of death.

Suicide .....	2
Traffic Accidents .....	3
Drowning .....	3
All other accidents.	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>



**Infant Deaths.**

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under One month		Over 1 month and under 1 year.		TOTAL		TOTAL M.& F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Congenital Deformities.....	—	2	1	—	1	2	3
Prematurity	8	1	—	—	8	1	9
Broncho Pneumonia	—	—	3	—	3	—	3
Marasmus .....	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Heart	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	1	—	—	2	1	3
Birth Injury ....	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>

**Premature Births.**

The care and management of premature babies is a subject which has been neglected for many years. Authorities have shown that, with proper care, many of these infants can be saved and later become useful citizens. The Neath General Hospital Authority has realised this and has set up its premature unit. You will notice that 28 babies were prematurely born at the Hospital during the year. Another 8 were born at home. When you read further, that 24 of these babies still survived at the end of the month, you will have some indication of, and also an explanation for, our fairly low mortality rate.

For the care and management of premature births at home, the County Health Committee have specially trained and equipped midwives, who will have complete charge of the premature infant until it attains the physical fitness of a mature child.

**Premature Births and Deaths Notified.**

Total Number of Premature Babies notified during 1951:—

- (i) who were born at Home ..... 8
- (ii) in Hospital or Nursing Home ..... 28

Number of those born at home who were

- (i) nursed entirely at Home ..... 5
- (ii) who died during the first 24 hours ..... 1
- (iii) who survived at the end of the month ..... 4

### Number of those born at Hospital or Nursing Home :

(i)	who died during the first 24 hours	6
(ii)	who survived at the end of the month	20

### Comparative Figures of Infant Deaths for previous Years.

1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
22	14	22	17	17	20	22	18	30	29

### General Provision of Health Services in the Borough.

The chemical and bacteriological examination of material submitted by the Health Department of the Corporation is carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff. The numbers of specimens submitted during the year were :

Swabs to be examined for the presence of

Diphtheria bacilli	6
Milk Samples	155
Water samples	99

### Nursing in the Home.

The nursing services in the Borough are now under the direction of the Local Health Authority, and include Home Nursing, Midwifery, and a service which, although not directly involved in nursing, nevertheless has a great deal to do with the care and welfare of the sick—I refer to the Home Help Service.

### Midwifery Service.

There were 454 births during the year but only 37% of the births were attended by the Midwives. The remaining 63% of the births took place at the Neath General Hospital. Of late years there has been a trend towards confinement in Hospital. Many mothers, of course, are advised by their own Doctor that, for obstetric reasons it would be better for them to have their babies in hospital. Others are recommended for admission because of the inadequate facilities in their own homes.

### Hospitals.

Since the implementation of the National Health Service Act, the Hospitals in the Borough are now under the control of the Regional Hospital Board and are administered by the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee.

There are two hospitals within the boundary of the Borough, namely, the Neath General Hospital with 350 beds, and the Cinla Hospital with 80 beds. Tonna Children's Hospital should be included as a hospital which serves the Borough for, although outside the Borough boundary, it is nevertheless closely associated with the Neath General Hospital.

### NEATH GENERAL.

This is an acute General Hospital of 350 beds, with an annexe of 50 beds to which cases of fairly long stay may be transferred. This enables the more acute beds to be made available at the General Hospital. It has a first class maternity Unit. The Hospital is recognised for the D.R.O.G. and the D.C.H. Medical Diplomas. It is a training school for the State Registration of Nurses and for the first part of the Examination of the Central Midwives Board.



CIMLA HOSPITAL :

This is a specialist Hospital for the treatment of Tuberculosis. During the last twelve months it has opened a centre for Thoracic Surgery and the results, as seen by myself, have been very satisfactory.

TONNA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

This is the old Isolation Hospital. It is now a Children's Hospital of 94 beds. Although at present in its developmental stage, the Management Committee hope, as circumstances permit, to make it eventually into a complete Children's Unit. At present it has a Paediatric Ward, an Orthopaedic Ward, a Ear, Nose and Throat Department and an Eye Department.

**Disinfection.**

During the year disinfection of articles of clothing and infected houses in the Borough, was carried out at the homes of infected persons, by means of Formaldehyde vapour.

Every case of Infectious Disease was visited, and, where suitable, disinfection was carried out. This disinfection of contaminated articles by Formaldehyde has been going on for many years. In the light of our present knowledge of bacteriology I doubt very much whether it is really effective. What it really does is, that the disinfection creates such a mess that the poor housewife has, of necessity, to open all the windows and get to work with soap and scrubbing brush. This, in my opinion, is the real effective disinfection but whether public opinion is ready for us to do away with this Formaldehyde disinfection is very doubtful.

This must not be confused with the disinfection of bed clothing and articles which have been in close contact with cases such as tuberculosis.

To be made safe they should be stoved. Arrangements are now available for these contaminated articles and clothing to be properly stoved and made safe by special treatment at Tonna Hospital.

**Infectious Diseases.****WHOOPING COUGH.**

Although only 101 cases of Whooping Cough were notified, I feel that there were many more in the District. Many parents have asked me why there is no immunisation against this very distressing and potentially dangerous disease. The real reason is that, although many preparations are available, there is not one, at present, which can be said with confidence will produce the immunity which is being obtained with the Diphtheria Immunising preparation. Besides, some of the preparations which are being used set up re-actions in the child which may be very alarming, to say the least of it.

**POLIOMYELITIS.**

One case was notified during the year being of the paralytic type. This disease, always looked upon with dread, is becoming more frequent. Normally the number of deaths is not numerous but the paralysis which follows many of the cases is of great importance because they usually remain permanently handicapped.

The ideal prevention of the disease is very difficult because, so far, there is doubt as to its mode of spread. Research is being carried out in many countries along these lines.

**MEASLES.**

There was a sharp epidemic of Measles during the year and it says a great deal that there was only one death. Although looked upon with some complacency by the public, it can nevertheless be a deadly disease from the complications which may follow.

**SCARLET FEVER :**

This infectious disease has lost much of its dread. Not only has it become milder during the last five years but also knowing the germ which causes it, there is in the present antibiotic preparations the answer to its treatment.

It is now a rarity to have complications of heart disease, ear disease, etc., following a properly managed Scarlet Fever case.

**DIPHTHERIA :**

Here is a disease which is fast disappearing. You will note that there were no cases notified during the year. There have been no deaths of the immunised since immunisation was first introduced ten years ago. A word of warning is still necessary, however. The number of children who are being immunised is decreasing rapidly and parents must remember that they have a duty to perform against this infection. Every child should be immunised during the first year of its life and afterwards when it first attends school at five years of age.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.**

<i>Years.</i>	<i>No. of Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Number Immunised.</i>
1941	42	5
1942	64	0
1943	30	7
1944	33	4
1945	31	3
1946	36	6
1947	16	7
1948	19	11
1949	7	0
1950	6	2
1951	—	—

**Maternity and Child Welfare.**

The work carried on in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare includes:—

1. Health Visiting.
2. Infant Consultations at the Welfare Centre.
3. Ante-Natal Clinics and Visiting.
4. Ultra-Violet-Light Therapy, for infants and expectant mothers.

5. Provision for dental treatment for expectant mothers in necessitous cases.
6. Provision of milk and vitamin products for mothers and children under five years of age.
7. Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.

In addition, orthopaedic, dental, visual, ear nose and throat treatment is given in co-operation with the County Medical Officer.

Neath is fortunate in having a really modern Midwifery Unit, staffed by experts in this speciality. It is enough to state that no mother has died from childbirth.

### **Home Help Service.**

This Service, although not directly a Nursing Service, is closely concerned with the welfare of the sick. Women are employed, full and part time to look after the household when the housewife is sick at home or in hospital. It is not what I consider a congenial job but these Home Helps are imbued with a fine spirit of service and are doing work which, from letters received, is very much appreciated.

### **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

The County Council who, under the Education Act, 1944, became responsible for the treatment of school children, was desirous of using our clinics as treatment centres and so clinic arrangements for the maternity and child welfare Committee were arranged as follows:—

Ante-Natal Clinics	Dyfed Road, Thursdays, 9.30 to 4.0 p.m. Hunter Street, Briton Ferry, Fridays, 9.30 a.m.
Maternity and Child Welfare	Dyfed Road, Fridays, 2.30 p.m. St. Catherine's Parish Hall, Wednesdays, at 2.30 p.m. Hunter Street, Briton Ferry, Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.
Ultra-Violet Light Therapy	Dyfed Road Clinic, Tuesdays, at 9.30 a.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	All Child Welfare Clinics.

### **Health Visiting.**

The birth of every child in the Borough must be notified to me within 36 hours by a responsible person present at the birth, namely, the Doctor or Midwife. As soon as possible after the first fortnight, the child is visited by one of the Health Visitors. A note is made of the home conditions and advice given to the mother as to feeding, clothing, etc., of the child.



During the year Health Visitors made 8,498 visits.

Each Health Visitor is also engaged at Minor Ailment Clinics on two mornings of each week and at Child Welfare Clinics on two afternoons of each week. Thus they become aware of the advice that is given there by the Medical Officer. They are also able to follow this advice in the subsequent visits to the home.

### Attendances at Clinics.

	<i>First Visits</i>	<i>Re- Visits</i>	<i>Total Visits</i>
Dyfed Road Clinic .....	284	2726	3010
St. Catherine's Parish Hall Clinic	138	2496	2634
Hunter St. Clinic	177	3666	3843
TOTALS	599	8888	9487

### Tuberculosis.

	NOTIFICATION OF NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5 — 10 years	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 years .....	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
15 — 20 years	7	11	1	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25 years	1	6	—	—	1	1	—	—
25 — 35 years	4	9	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 — 45 years	5	5	—	1	1	3	1	—
45 — 55 years	8	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 — 65 years	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	2	1	—	—	1	3	—	—
TOTAL	32	36	5	3	5	8	1	2

**Tuberculosis.****Notifications and Deaths for the Past 25 Years.**

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Pul. Notifcs.</i>	<i>Pul. Deaths.</i>	<i>Non-Pul. Notifcs.</i>	<i>Non-Pul. Deaths</i>
1927	44	19	33	2
1928	42	31	23	6
1929	55	25	27	4
1930	81	29	33	3
1931	108	23	28	5
1932	77	22	32	4
1933	44	18	29	4
1934	81	33	24	3
1935	43	13	26	4
1936	30	11	27	1
1937	41	12	20	6
1938	37	8	23	3
1939	40	9	27	4
1940	42	10	27	6
1941	44	12	31	1
1942	75	18	16	2
1943	64	16	33	3
1944	43	15	26	9
1945	69	18	22	5
1946	39	11	22	3
1947	42	10	22	3
1948	40	18	11	3
1949	44	17	11	0
1950	38	16	11	3
1951	68	13	8	3

**Maternal Mortality.**

The term "Maternal Mortality" relates to the deaths from conditions peculiar to pregnancy and childbirth and is expressed as a ratio which the number bears to 1,000 (live and still) births.

I have to report that there was one maternal death during 1951. This occurred in hospital. There were no deaths in hospital, nor in the district from Puerperal Fever.

**Infectious Diseases—Cases Notified.**

<i>INFECTIOUS DISEASES.</i>	<i>Total Number of cases.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Number of Deaths</i>
Measles	183	24	1
Scarlet Fever	13	8	—
Whooping Cough	101	7	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Meningitis	3	3	—
Pneumonia	9	7	18
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—

### **Water Supply.**

The Water Supply from the Borough comes from the Gnoll, Briton Ferry and Ystradfellte works. From the two former the water is filtered and chlorinated and from the latter chlorinated only. Continuous samples were taken during the year from the three sources of supply before and after treatment. Monthly samples are taken as a routine measure for bacteriological examination.

The number of samples taken for bacteriological examination at houses, schools, hospitals, factories and public houses during the year was 110, made up as follows :

From Swimming Pool .....	3
From Springs .....	Nil
From Schools, Hospitals etc., .....	107

### **Curtailment of Supply.**

The water supply was curtailed for twelve hours in all Wards between the 5th July and 27th August, 1951 (inclusive).



---

BOROUGH OF NEATH

Annual Report

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1951

---

NEATH,

August, 1951<sup>2</sup>.

To : THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF NEATH.

*Mr. Mayor, Alderman and Councillors,*

I have pleasure in submitting a Report of the work carried out in the Sanitary Department during 1951:

**STAFF.**

Mr. EVAN THOMAS, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st January, 1924, and Chief Sanitary Inspector on the 24th November, 1935.  
(Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector).

Mr. R. T. PROBERT, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st March, 1936.  
(Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector).

Mr. D. J. HOWELLS, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st January, 1948.  
(Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector).

Mr. T. G. HOPKINS, appointed Temporary Sanitary Inspector on the 1st February, 1947, and Sanitary Inspector on the 1st February, 1949.

(Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector).

GENERAL CLERK, Public Health Department—Mr. D. J. WILLIAMS  
Transferred from Borough Engineer's Department, 22nd May, 1950).

**HOUSING INSPECTION.**

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts .....	1450
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same .....	5142
Number of houses found not in all respects to be fit for human habitation .....	493
Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices, including 101 which were in course of compliance at the end of 1950 .....	482
Number of houses subject to Notices at the end of 1951, the time given having not expired .....	112

**DEFECTS FOUND DURING INSPECTION**

	<i>Premises affected.</i>
DRAINS : Defective, absence of, defectively constructed, defective fittings .....	131
WATER CLOSETS : Defective fittings, broken and defective pans, structural defects and dilapidations of closet buildings .....	97
WATER SUPPLY : No supply, defective and insufficient supply, defective fittings .....	68
PAVING OF YARD AREAS : Defective yard paving, defective dish to gullies .....	72
GENERAL HOUSE REPAIRS : Dampness, defective roofs, rain-water troughings and downpipes, defective internal plastering, walls, woodwork, light and ventilation, defective firegrates and chimneys, absence of or defective food stores and coal stores .....	507
OTHER NUISANCES : Insanitary stables, pig styes and out-buildings, accumulation of refuse or manure, presence of rats and mice, smoke nuisance from domestic chimneys, house and trade refuse .....	283

All the defects were dealt with under the Public Health Act.

During the year, 622 complaints, of which 157 were written, were made in respect of various nuisances.

**NEW HOUSES, 1951.**

The number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) By the Local Authority	Permanent prefabricated dwellings	146
	Traditional type	7
(b) By other Bodies or Persons		15
	TOTAL	<u>168</u>

**DISINFECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.**

After cases of Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria .....	1
After cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever and Poliomyelitis .....	—
After deaths and removals (Tuberculosis) .....	12
After deaths from Cancer .....	4
	<u>30</u>



**DISINFESTATIONS DURING THE YEAR.**

Slum houses during displacement	0
Overcrowded houses during de-crowding	0
Council houses, reported infested	2
Privately owned houses, reported infested	13
	<hr/>
	15
	<hr/>

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

<i>Premises,</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices.</i>
Factories with Mechanical Power .....	37	4
Factories without Mechanical Power	76	5
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering constructions, but not including out workers' premises)	41	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	154	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Defects found :</i>	<i>Defects</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES (S.7) :</b>		
(a) Insufficient .....	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	4	4
(c) Other Offences .....	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>

A list of two outworkers was received during the year.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES**

Applications were received at the beginning of the year for the re-registration of five Common Lodging Houses, all of which were situated in the Borough, as follows :

<i>Name of Keeper</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>No. of Reg. Rooms</i>	<i>No. Reg. Lodgers</i>
Mrs. Ann Sandham	1, Cattle Street, Neath .....	8	47
Mrs. Ann Sandham & Deputy —(Wm. Sandham)	1, Glamorgan Street, Neath .....	6	16
Evan Rosser .....	68, Water Street, Neath .....	3	15
Ernest Powell	11, The Parade, Neath	3	11
D. W. Thomas	4, Commercial St., Neath	12	45
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		32	134
		<hr/>	<hr/>



On the 31st December, 1951, 80 men, 7 women and 3 children, a total of 90 lodgers, were residing there and no case of overcrowding occurred during the year. The premises were kept in a fairly satisfactory condition and there was no general desire to carry out any major improvements.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS.

#### SUMMARY OF SAMPLES EXAMINED DURING THE YEAR :

<i>Total.</i> 203	<i>Milk.</i> 95	<i>Other Foods</i> 108	<i>Informal Samples</i> 203
Cochineal	1	Cocoa	1
Flavour Essences	2	Chocolate	4
Cough Mixtures	2	Lemonade Crystals	2
Olive Oil	1	Quaker Oats	1
Castor Oil	1	Shredded Wheat	1
Mustard	1	Salad Cream	1
Soup Powder	1	Gravy Powder	2
Tomato Ketchup	1	Sage	1
Coffee & Chicory Cubes	1	Beef Cubes	1
Cake & Pudding Mixtures	18	Sauce	1
Jellies & Gelatine	9	Rice	1
Macaroni	1	Dried Beans	1
Semolina	3	Pickling Spice	1
Blancmange Powder	3	Sausages	6
Custard Powder	5	Cake Decoration (Edible)	1
Cornflour	1	Coconut (Desicated)	3
Baking Powder	2	Ground Ginger	2
Golden Raising Powder	2	Fish Frying Oil	6
Junket Powder	1	Fancy Pastries	12
Arrowroot	1	Milk Compound	2
		Milk	95
			203

Ratio of Samples to Population :

	<i>Per 1,000 Population.</i>
Milk Samples (95)	2.80
Other Samples (108)	3.20
All Samples (203)	6.00

#### ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

<i>Series No.</i> <i>(Informal)</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration</i>	<i>Observation</i>
19N.	Pudding Mixture	Infested with Meal Mites	See below
31N.	Sponge Mixture	Infested with Meal Mites	"
36N.	Pastry Mixture	Infested with Meal Mites	"
44N.	Dessert Mould	Infested with Meal Mites	"
50N.	Pastry Mixture	Rancidity	"

85N.	Fish Frying Oil	Rancidity.	"
88N.	Pudding Mixture	Infested with Meal Mites	"
89N.	Pudding Mixture	Infested with Mites	"
120N.	Sponge Mixture	Infested with Mites	"
136N.	Beef Sausage.	Deficient in Meat	"
166N.	Pudding Mixture	Infested with Mites	"
167N.	Pudding Mixture	Infested with Mites	"
168N.	Pudding Mixture	Infested with Mites	"
175N.	Bun Flour	Infested with Mites	"

There were no adulterated milk samples.

The milk generally was of satisfactory composition and included samples taken in course of delivery from the schools and hospitals within the Borough.

Sampling was carried out throughout the year and no request to sample "in course of delivery" nor "appeal to the cow" was received.

It will be observed that twelve samples of Flour Confectionery were infested with Meal Mites (*Tyroglyphus Farinae*) and the remainder of the stock, in each case, was withdrawn from sale and disposed of as animal food.

The six samples of sausages were free from preservatives and, with the exception of 130N had a satisfactory meat content. As they were taken informally as a test, the matter was pursued with satisfactory results.

The sugar confectionery was free from harmful colouring, sulphites and mineral oil, with fat content 11.5% to 35.5%.

Two special samples were submitted for examination owing to an unpleasant taste and odour which was declared to be due to hydrolytic rancidity, and the remainder of the stock was withdrawn from sale as human food, *viz.*, 50N "Pastry Mixture" and 85N "Fish Frying Oil".

Summary of samples purchased, number adulterated and the number in which proceedings were taken during 1951.

<i>Sample :</i>	<i>No. taken</i>	<i>% Adulterated</i>	<i>Case Proceedings</i>
Milk .....	95	0	0
Other Foods	108	13.88	0

#### **BOROUGH ANALYST.**

Mr. D. Evans-Jones, of the Public Laboratory, Cardiff, who was appointed Public Analyst to the Borough as from 12th October, 1950, continued in office.

#### **THE PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, Etc., IN FOOD)**

##### **REGULATIONS.**

<i>Series No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Preservative</i>	<i>Permitted Max. Preservative</i>
21N.	Dessert Gelatine	S.O <sub>2</sub> .640p. p.m.	S.O <sub>2</sub> .1000 p.p.m.

### REGISTERED BUTTER FACTORIES.

There remains one registered butter factory in the Borough, at 15a, Orchard Street, in the occupation of Messrs. W. Elliott & Son. It was not in use during the year.

### ARTIFICIAL CREAM

All artificial cream sold in the Borough was in unopened receptacles, as received from the manufacturers. Its consumption is very much on the increase as it is extensively used in the preparation of cakes, fancy pastries, and trifles.

### CONDENSED AND DRIED MILK REGULATIONS.

No case of incorrect description was observed on the labels of any containers during frequent inspections of stocks.

### MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT

During the war the Ministry of Food exercised emergency powers to suspend Marking Orders relating to eggs, bacon, butter, dried fruit, meat and poultry, apples, tomatoes, chilled salmon, honey, oat and malt products, and these again became operative on the 25th May, 1951., the only exception being butter which was suspended for a further year.

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

The following licences to retail graded milk within the Borough were in operation during 1951 :

<i>Tuberculin Tested</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Sterilised</i>	<i>Total</i>
6	14	16	11	47

Licences for 1950 were 34 and for 1949 were 11.

It is now possible to obtain any grade of milk in the Borough and the stage is being reached when only such milk will be available. Producer licences are granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and other licences by the Council as a Food and Drugs Authority.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of producers registered in the Borough for the sale of milk is 12, having an average of 250 cows in milk as follows:-

	1948	1949	1950	1951
Producers—Wholesalers	7	10	9	9
Producers—Retailers	8	5	3	3
Producer—Stock rearing only	0	0	3	3
	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

In 1939 there were 21 producers of milk for sale, which are now reduced to 12. One only is licensed for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk, which is bottled and retailed by him, nine dispose of their product to factories for pasteurisation, and the remaining two retail their small quantity locally.

The number of distributors operating during the year was as under:—

(a) Producers—retailers resident outside the Borough.....	5
(b) Producers—retailers resident in the Borough .....	3
(c) Retailers (only) resident in the Borough.....	13
(d) Retailers (only) resident outside the Borough .....	7
	<hr/> 28 <hr/>

There were 102 registered retailers in 1939 and the great decrease has been due to the transfer of several producer-retailers and retailers to the large milk factories.

### INSPECTION OF DIARY CATTLE.

The routine inspection of diary cattle has been the responsibility of the State Veterinary Service since April, 1948. It has been the practice for many years to report all cases of Advanced Tuberculosis discovered during Meat Inspection at the Public Slaughterhouse. During 1951, 67 notifications were sent to the Divisional Veterinary Officer, in respect of 54 cows, 8 heifers, 2 bulls, 1 steer, 1 calf and 1 sow.

### EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI

Twenty-eight samples of locally produced milk were submitted during 1951, to the Public Health Laboratory for Tubercle Bacilli examination, made up of 23 routine and 5 repeat samples, all of which gave negative results. It was possible to bulk sample each herd which produced milk for sale in the Borough and from herds outside which retailed raw milk within the Borough at least once during the year.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the year, 127 samples of milk were collected and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, as under:—

DESCRIPTION.	No. <i>Submitted.</i>	No. <i>Satisfactory</i>	No. <i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Ungraded	29	28	1
Tuberculin Tested .....	4	4	0
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	17	16	1
Pasteurised	39	39	0
Pasteurised (School Contract)	22	22	0
Pasteurised (Hospital Contract)	2	2	0
Sterilized	14	14	0
	<hr/> 127 <hr/>	<hr/> 125 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>

The results indicate the percentage of unsatisfactory samples to be:—

Raw Milks	3.03%
Heat Treated Milks	1.06%
Total—All Milks	1.57%



The percentage of unsatisfactory samples compares very favourably with the results over 1939—1951:—

<i>Period</i>	<i>Samples Examined</i>	<i>Number Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Percentage Unsatisfactory</i>
1939	96	21	21.8
1940	89	18	20.2
1941	104	38	36.5
1942	107	39	36.4
1943	113	37	32.7
1944	111	29	26.1
1945	97	30	30.9
1946	110	27	24.5
1947	122	31	25.4
1948	116	25	21.5
1949	127	18	14.1
1950	131	6	4.58
1951	127	2	1.57

It will be observed that two samples of the 127 submitted for examination, or 1.57% only, were certified as being unsatisfactory. The results, which cover the milk supply of the Borough, are highly satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were sub-standard as to keeping quality and all the heat treated milks showed complete pasteurisation or sterilisation. School supplies, all of which were pasteurised, were obtained from County Council schools and hospital supplies from local institutions.

An analysis of the quarterly returns shows:

	<i>Submitted</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
First Quarter .....	30	30	0
Second Quarter .....	34	32	2
Third Quarter .....	34	34	0
Fourth Quarter .....	29	29	0
	<hr/> 127	<hr/> 125	<hr/> 2
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

### WATER SUPPLIES

During 1951, 110 samples—84 Bacteriological and 26 Chemical were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The supply was satisfactorily maintained throughout the year and no case of sickness attributable to water contamination was reported. All the town supplies are from three sources, *viz.*, Briton Ferry, Gnoll and Ystradfellte Reservoirs, the last named being purchased. The first two supplies are filtered and chlorinated, and the Ystradfellte chlorinated only. The supply at Briton Ferry Dock is from the town mains, and all precautions are taken in the care of its equipment. In this connection, 16 samples were collected, 4 were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and 12 to the Beck Laboratory, the latter by the Port Health Authority, all being satisfactory.

### MEAT INSPECTION

The control of fat-stock and meat supply commenced in January, 1940, and continued throughout the year. Neath Mart. is the collecting centre for live-stock, the Neath Public Slaughterhouse is centralised for the Borough and Rural District and in addition, for other areas known as "export".

The duties of Meat Inspection are carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, who are certificated Meat Inspectors. Slaughtering was carried on continuously and complete inspection maintained irrespective of evening, Saturday afternoon or Sunday work. The requisite records were kept of animals slaughtered, carcasses and offal condemned, and the Ministry of Food's instructions strictly obeyed.

In consequence of control, the Public Slaughterhouse only was in use, no other slaughterhouse now being in existence. The management is by an official of the Ministry of Food. All animals are slaughtered by humane methods—Captive Bolt Pistols and Electric Stunners being used. There were 22 licensed slaughtermen on the register, most of whom were employed full-time at Slaughterhouses.

The number of animals slaughtered during 1951 was as follows:—

<i>Cattle (excluding cows)</i>	<i>Cows :</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep &amp; Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
4018	2568	25391	21487	1496	54960

Cwrt Herbert Private Slaughterhouse was closed in May, 1945, re-opened from October, 1950, to February, 1951, and again re-opened on the 13th August, 1951.

#### TABLE OF CONDEMNED MEAT

The undermentioned carcasses and edible offal were found to be unfit for human food :

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Carcasses complete .....	194	33	362	21
Heads only .....	21	0	0	0
Tongues .....	5	0	0	0
Heads and Tongues .....	462	37	362	60
Livers .....	3906	2360	88	25
Part Livers .....	820	0	0	0
Hearts .....	240	0	0	0
Tails .....	196	0	0	0
Thick Skirts .....	306	0	0	0
Lungs .....	2110	1134	13	16
Melts .....	473	0	0	0
Plucks .....	0	41	372	26
Udders .....	1905	0	0	0
Gut .....	1214	36	359	119
Tripe .....	182	0	0	0
Parts of carcasses	7524 lbs.	63 lbs.	10 lbs.	142 lbs.

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle (excluding Cows).</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep &amp; Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>
Number Killed	4018	2568	25391	21487	1496
Number Inspected	4018	2568	25391	21487	1496

## ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :

	<i>Cattle (excluding Cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Whole carcasses condemned	5	90	353	33	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	475	803	439	2462	136
Percentage of No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	11.8	34.7	3.1	11.6	10.0

## TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :

	<i>Cattle (excluding Cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Whole carcasses condemned	15	84	9	0	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	474	506	21	0	73
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.1	21.9	.11	0	5.2

In addition, 178 tins of Corned Beef, weight 748 lbs., were condemned for unsoundness at the Distributing Centre. The instructions of the Ministry of Food on the brand, country of origin, identification marks, etc., were complied with.

It will be observed that 194 carcasses of Beef, 362 carcasses of Veal, 33 carcasses of mutton, 21 carcasses of Pork, 7524 lbs. of Beef, 10 lbs. of Veal, 63 lbs of Mutton, 142 lbs. of Pork (as part carcasses), and a large quantity of edible offal were condemned during the year. Of the cattle slaughtered, 42 per cent were cows, which indicates the steady improvement in the quality of rationed meat.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cattle % (excluding cows)</i>	<i>Cows %</i>
1951	58	42
1950	46	54
1949	39	61
1948	45	55
1947	38	62
1946	29	71
1945	47	53
1939	98	2

Included in the 1496 pigs killed in the Slaughterhouse were 11 baconers for private consumers.

Extensions and improved facilities at the Slaughterhouse were carried out, particularly the extended lairage for cattle, and plans were made for a pig stunning block and a paddock for sheep.

Further to previous reports on the infestation of cattle by *Cysticercus Bovis* (Measly Beef), 23 more cases were discovered in 1951:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Collecting Centre.</i>	<i>Class of Animal.</i>	<i>No. of Animal</i>	<i>Location.</i>
1948	Neath	Heifer	180	Right Cheek
1949	Cardigan	Cow	313	Right Cheek
"	Lampeter	Cow	889	Left Cheek
"	Newcastle Emlyn	Cow	747	Right Cheek
"	Newcastle Emlyn	Bull	988	Thick Skirt and Left Rump.
"	Axminster.	Cow	923	Left Cheek
"	Lampeter	Cow	595	Right Cheek
"	Llandilo	Steer	412	Both Cheeks
"	Whitland	Heifer	306	Both Cheeks.
"	Stiff Cross.	Cow	202	Left Cheek
"	Hasguard	Cow	787	Left Cheek
1950	Llandyssul	Heifer	456	Heart
"	Newcastle Emlyn	Cow	184	Heart
"	St. Clear's	Cow	817	Heart and Right Cheek
"	Langport	Steer	861	Right Cheek
"	Langport	Cow	865	Left Cheek
"	Llandilo	Cow	665	Heart.
"	Aberystwyth	Cow	707	Right Cheek
"	Neath	Heifer	189	Right Cheek
"	Llandilo	Cow	781	Right Cheek.
"	Llandilo	Steer	704	Left Cheek
1951	Neath	Cow	358	Both Cheeks
"	Gowerton	Steer	985	Left Cheek
"	Gowerton	Heifer	975	Right Cheek
"	Yeovil	Heifer	977	Right Cheek.
"	Highbridge	Cow	861	Left Cheek.
"	Birkenhead	Steer	97587	Heart
"	Birkenhead	Steer	97580	Right Cheek
"	Birkenhead	Heifer	0538	Right Cheek
"	Nottingham	Heifer	476	Heart
"	Neath	Bull	860	Right Cheek and Skirt.
"	Birkenhead	Heifer	908	Heart
"	Llandovery	Cow	801	Right Cheek
"	Honiton	Heifer	558	Right Cheek
"	Gowerton	Heifer	393	Right Cheek
"	Hasguard	Steer	627	Heart
"	Llandilo	Cow	115	Left Cheek



„	Llandovery	Heifer	798	Right Cheek
„	Whitland	Cow	356	Right Cheek.
„	Newcastle Emlyn	Heifer	854	Right Cheek
„	Neath	Heifer	737	Right Cheek
„	Truro	Heifer	776	Right Cheek
„	Mathry Road	Cow	530	Right Cheek
„	Aberystwyth	Cow	583	Heart.

#### ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING PERIOD 1946—1951.

	1946	1947	1948	1948	1950	1951
Cattle	1667	1761	1477	1530	2520	4018
Cows	4179	2963	1793	2434	2997	2568
Calves	31212	31909	27891	29547	32714	25391
Sheep	21988	16073	23325	27649	21189	21487
Pigs	405	63	676	1156	2040	1496
	<u>59451</u>	<u>52769</u>	<u>55162</u>	<u>62316</u>	<u>61460</u>	<u>54960</u>

#### WHOLE CARCASSES CONDEMNED DURING PERIOD, 1946—1951.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cattle	9	6	6	8	9	15
Cows	624	321	153	241	295	179
Calves	222	264	237	236	375	362
Sheep	26	26	19	47	61	33
Pigs	4	2	10	13	14	21
	<u>885</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>545</u>	<u>754</u>	<u>610</u>

#### MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924—1948.

The Regulations generally were well observed. An improvement was observed in the quality overalls and headgear in use, and these were for practicable purposes maintained in a clean condition. With regard to vehicles used for the conveyance of meat these are now mostly lined with metal sheets which are easily washed down and prevent percolation of liquid into the under surfaces. It was necessary on occasions to warn offenders for not strictly complying with instructions and the assistance of Depot Managers in this respect is acknowledged. The attention of the British Railways was also called to the unsatisfactory condition of their meat vans.

#### BUTCHERS' SHOPS

There were 46 premises in use as Butchers' Shops—34 as shops proper and 12 as stalls in the enclosed market, 35 of which are family businesses and the remainder are made up of Co-operative Society, 6, H. Woodley & Co., 4 and J. H. Dewhurst & Co., one. They are all provided with means of re-

frigeration for meat storage and there is hot water available for ablution purposes in each. Progress was made in redecorating and in general repair of premises, and in two instances extensive drainage work was carried out. No complaint was received from officers of the Ministry of Food in respect of any irregularities noticed by them during manufacture, storage or distribution of meat and meat products.

### OTHER PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS SOLD, STORED OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

#### 1. BAKEHOUSES.

There were 22 bakehouses, each separately owned, in use during the year. They were fully engaged in the making of bread and flour confectionery and provided for part only of the requirements of the town's population, the remainder being made up from firms operating from outside the boundary. It was ascertained that approximately 150 persons are engaged in the making, selling and distribution. Adequate sanitary conveniences and washing facilities with the necessary towels are provided in each. The slicing and wrapping of bread was carried on at several of the premises but the argument is still advanced that bread should be free to breathe. Attention was again called to personal hygiene and progress was made in structural improvements of buildings. No serious complaints of pest infestations were found, spraying and dusting with D.D.T. insecticides proving most effective. All the premises were on the public water supply and samples were examined throughout the year.

#### 2. AERATED WATER WORKS :

The four factories situated in the Borough were in full production of aerated waters, and three were also making vinegar and gravy browning. The premises were generally well looked after, the water obtained from the public supply, and samples of same were satisfactory.

#### 3. ICE-CREAM SHOPS :

There were 90 premises, 11 of which are factories, distributed throughout the Borough, registered for sale of ice-cream in 1951. The majority retailed the product of the large national manufacturers and during the season supplemented same from any source possible. The premises were kept under observation and the storage and methods of sale were satisfactory. The few who sold from vehicles were found to be registered and their conduct gave no cause for complaint.

The methods of examination are experimental, and the grading provisional.

The Laboratory examination for 1947—1951 are given below :

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number Submitted</i>	<i>Number Grade 1.</i>	<i>Number Grade 2.</i>	<i>Number Grade 3.</i>	<i>Number Grade 4.</i>
1947	30	10	2	8	10
1948	42	13	6	9	14
1949	50	25	11	8	6
1950	42	18	16	5	3
1951	41	32	2	4	3

The provisional Regulations interpret the above as :

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number Submitted</i>	<i>Number Satis- factory</i>	<i>No. Fairly Satis- factory</i>	<i>Number Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>No. Very Unsatis- factory</i>
1947	30	10	2	8	10
1948	42	13	6	9	14
1949	50	25	11	8	6
1950	42	18	16	5	3
1951	41	32	2	4	3

The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 17, compared with 1947—60, 1948—54, 1949—28, and 1950—19. It is recommended that proceedings should be taken against consistent offenders only and none of the unsatisfactory results were such. The test applied is a check on "keeping quality", but periods of low temperatures result in reduced sales and increase the stock of stale product which in my opinion, was the main reason for the number of sub-standard samples

The attention of the trade was called to the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat, Treatment, etc.,) Regulations, 1947—1951, and in particular to the provision of thermometers. During the year a chemical standard for ice-cream came into being in the issue of the Food Standards (Ice-Cream) Order, 1951, which provided that ice-cream shall not contain less than 5 per cent fat, 10 per cent sugar and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent solids other than fat. There is a variation for ice cream containing fruit and for that sold as "Parev".

#### 4. FISH FRYING BUSINESSES :

There were 27 premises fitted for the purpose of preparing and selling fried fish and chipped potatoes. Of these 24 were operating and three remained closed throughout the year. It is to be noted that one of six shops situated on the Council's Estate was converted into such a business. At one of the shops, the preparing and packing of potato crisps has been established on a fairly large and successful scale. Business was fair generally and with the exception of "Fair Week, there were no mobile shops of this nature seen. It was necessary to serve several Notices in respect of re-decoration, disposal of waste and disrepair, particularly of yards and out-buildings. Waste is disposed for feeding, fish was invariably received daily and only approved fats used for frying. Samples of fish Frying Oil were submitted for analysis under the Food & Drugs Act and in one instance 48 lbs. was condemned owing to hydrolytic rancidity.

#### 5. FISH SHOPS AND HAWKERS :

The twelve premises on which fish was sold were regularly visited, five sold fish and fish products only, one retailed a quantity of fresh fish in addition to fried fish, five occasionally dried or preserved fish, and at one Departmental Stores dried fish was periodically sold. Attention was called in several cases to unhygienic practices such as maintenance of washing facilities, accumulations of waste, unclean yard areas and proper wrapping. Fish hawkers were practically out of business and no complaints of dumping into streams and on to open spaces were received. The arrangements made with the trade to report any doubtful consignments received worked satisfactorily.

#### 6. HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND CANTEENS.

These establishments were regularly inspected as to their cleanliness and suitability. There are two hotels, The Castle and The Cambrian, both in the same ownership. The former is provided with modern equipment, while the latter needs alteration to the kitchen, but is well kept. It has been mentioned that the Waverley Hotel may be converted into a residential hotel. Refrigeration is provided for perishable goods.

The thirty restaurants and cafes were open to serve the general public. They are situated, mainly in the populous parts of the town and vary in size, capacity and staff, and alterations are going on continuously so as to provide additional accommodation either in kitchens or dining rooms. Extended use of refrigeration was observed.

There were twenty canteens in use at the principal works and factories and in this respect, the building trade still lags behind. Most of the premises are well equipped, cleanliness was generally observed, improvements had been carried out in re-decoration, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation.



Disposal of waste is to local pig-keepers, and the attention of all persons was directed to the provision of Orders relating to the boiling of swill. There were no complaints of vermin infestation, insecticides are generally applied and the Council provides an efficient rodent control service.

## 7. GENERAL PROVISION SHOPS, STALLS AND STORES :

The following foodstuffs were condemned :

77 lbs.	Cheese.	268 lbs.	Sugar.
89 lbs.	Bacon.	76 lbs.	Butter.
287 lbs.	Sausages.	53 lbs.	Turkey.
40 lbs.	Frozen Eggs.	112 lbs.	Poultry.
298	Packets Cake Mixture.	122	Meat Faggots.
412 lbs.	Cake.	228	Meat Pies.
116 lbs.	Biscuits.	21 lbs.	Pressed Beef.
58	Packets Jelly	120 lbs.	Rabbit.
35 lbs.	Sweets	2233 lbs.	Cooked Ham.
13 cwt.	Apples.	326	Tins of Meat.
112 lbs.	Potatoes.	161	Tins of Milk.
23 cwt.	Onions.	122	Tins of Jam.
10	Cases Tomatoes	287	Tins of Fruit.
120	Packets of Cereals.	557	Tins of Vegetables.
185	Bars Chocolate.	83	Tins of Fish.
48 lbs.	Fish Frying Oil.	14 lbs.	Kippers.

It will be observed that a total of 2,233 lbs. of Cooked Ham, of continental origin, was condemned during 1951. The Borough, in common with other areas, received a large number of unsound tins from this source and the cause of so high a percentage of condemnation was probably inferior packing, and the Ministry of Food was cognisant of the facts. The amounts of foodstuffs condemned may appear high but it should be noted that the Borough is a large shopping centre, with general market and departmental stores and the rationed public is probably twice its population. The now established custom of the Borough Traders in calling immediate attention to any doubtful food product is appreciated and, undoubtedly goes a long way in the prevention of food poisoning. It is also to be appreciated that the amount of foodstuffs condemned is relatively small when compared with the quantities examined.

## GENERAL INSPECTION.

### 1. SHOPS ACT :

The duties of the Local Authority for the purposes of the Shops Acts and Regulations are performed by the Inspector of Weights and Measures. It was transferred from the Sanitary Department from 1st July, 1949. The provisions relating to sanitary conveniences and as to ventilation and temperature are enforced by the Sanitary Authority, and several improvements were carried out during the year. With regard to washing facilities, this is enforced in shops generally by the Shops Inspector, but in food shops action is taken by the Sanitary Department, and installations are practically completed.

### 2. HAIRDRESSERS' ESTABLISHMENTS :

Routine inspections were made of the hairdressers' establishments throughout the Borough.

The following table shows the number of ladies and gentlemen saloons together with the number of women and men engaged in the work, in Ward distribution :

WARD.	Establishments.		Employees.	
	Ladies.	Gents.	Men	Women
North .....	9	10	3	16
South .....	5	3	1	2
Briton Ferry	3	6	0	0
	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>18</u>

The premises were reasonably well kept as to cleanliness, decoration, fitments and repairs but it was necessary to serve a few Notices for re-decoration, defective drainage and inadequate ventilation of ladies' saloons. It was noticed that towels were in full supply, precautions against possible skin infections were being taken, and the trade is to be complimented on the maintenance of a good standard of hygiene.

### 3. OFFENSIVE TRADES :

Consent was again given for the establishment of the same four offensive trades in the Borough. They consisted of three Rag and Bone Dealers and were situated at The Latt (Foner & Co.), Bankside (D. Price); Victoria Yard, The Green (W. Waters); and one of Gut Scraper at the Slaughterhouse (W. Gabriel). These premises were regularly visited and were kept under close supervision, the nature of their businesses may give rise to complaints although they serve a useful purpose in any community in bringing offensive salvage matter to controlled centres where it is sorted out and properly disposed of. Deodorants were used in keeping down smells during warm weather. Proceedings were taken against one person who attempted to establish a rag and bone business without consent and it was necessary for the Council to enforce the Nuisance Order.

### 4. TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

There were no reports of illegal occupation of such structures brought to the notice of the department and the assistance of the Police, in this respect, is acknowledged. During any occupation of the Fairfield, a number of moveable vans are sited there but for a limited period only. Conveniences for men and women are provided by the Council, and a direct supply of drinking water for their use.

### 5. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS.

One application only was received during 1951 for a Certificate of the Sanitary Authority as to the "state of repair" of a dwelling house, and it was granted.

### 6. SANITARY ACCOMMODATION OF CINEMAS AND BILLIARD HALLS.

The number of Cinemas in the Borough has remained constant for some years, *viz.*, Gnoll, Empire and Windsor in Neath, and the Lodge and Kinema in Briton Ferry, five in all, with a total seating accommodation for 5,362 persons. The position regarding the reconstruction of the Gnoll Cinema and the adaptation of the Public Hall, Briton Ferry, followed by the closing of the Palace Kinema and the transfer of its licence thereto, remains as reported in 1941. The cleanliness and general condition of the conveniences was satisfactory. Re-decoration has been completed at the Windsor, Palace Kinema and Lodge, and preparation made for similar work at the Gnoll and Empire. It was necessary to serve two Notices in respect of unclean condition of premises. The number of persons employed was 88 (35 males, 53 females).

An inspection was made of the three public billiard halls as to their cleanliness and condition of sanitary conveniences. The conditions are generally satisfactory, each of the premises has been re-decorated and sanitary defects, which were the subject of Notices, made good.

## 7. SANITARY CONVENIENCES, ETC., OF SCHOOLS.

The Public Schools are under the control of the County Council. There are two private commercial schools, in each case it is a house adapted for the purpose. The supply of milk to all the schools is pasteurised and the water supply is from the town's mains. During the year 22 samples of school milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, and were satisfactory. The Gnull Swimming Pool was made full use of by school children. Rodent Control of schools and school kitchens was carried out on behalf of the County Council.

## 8. LICENSED PREMISES :

There were 63 licensed premises open to trade, owned by nine breweries, one of which owned more than half of them. They have been in existence for a number of years, retaining their original design and accommodation, except for a few cases. Where disrepair existed or lack of maintenance needed attention, the owners are requested to deal with them. Conditions in the cellars were far from being satisfactory and attention of both owners and licensees was called to same and progress in this direction was made during the year. Sanitary arrangements were mainly satisfactory, four premises are still without ladies' conveniences, but undertakings have been received that these will be provided in the near future. Facilities for cleansing glasses are available with hot and cold water in use, and in most cases detergents are added.

The Clubs were generally well maintained, but it was necessary to call attention to minor defects which were always put in order.

The standard of cleanliness was good generally, but difficulty was experienced in obtaining suitable and sufficient domestic help, and there were indications that the trade was endeavouring to improve buildings, provide better facilities and secure better hygienic conditions.

## 9. RATS AND MICE INFESTATIONS.

The Pests Act, 1949, which came into force on the 1st April, 1950, covers infestation by rats, mice and insect pests which destroy foods. The Council decided in October, 1950, not to charge dwelling-houses, excepting where there had been neglect by owner and occupiers. All business premises are fully charged for services.

The following is a summary of the premises treated and particulars of baiting, during the year.

Business Premises	48	Baits laid	3817
Private Dwellings	199	Baits taken	2429
Corporation Property	62	Dead Rats found	485
County Council Property	7	Dead Mice found	103

### Sewer Treatment 1951

Manholes baited	117	Baits taken	22
Manholes test baited	106	Baits, slight takes	14

The treatment of sewers has been continuous since 1944 fourteen treatments in all, and it will be observed that for 1951 a modified scheme was applied arising from the effectiveness of those carried out in previous years. The Ministry's methods are strictly obeyed, both with regard to sewer and surface treatments. Your Rodent Operative attended two "Refresher Courses" in connection with his work and I am pleased to report that he has always been satisfactory in his duties.

Alderman Hughes and I continued our representation on the Rodent Advisory Committee of the South Wales area.



# 10. PRIVATE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE BOROUGH ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT :

The following work was carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department at the expense of the Owners, under the Public Health Act :

- (a) Cleansing of drains, at request of owner, at seven dwelling-houses.
- (b) Cleansing of combined drains of 26 houses in 5 incidents.
- (c) Repairing and making good fittings of one closet building.

## HOUSING.

### 1. Houses Unfit for Human Habitation.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of :

49, Lowther Street.  
31, Pantyrheol.  
5 Lime Court

Undertakings were accepted and complied with in respect of :

184, Neath Road.  
13, Grove Lane.  
19, Albert Road.  
2, Mount Pleasant.

### Summary of Progress and Position

on the 31st December, 1951, and compared with 1937 and 1948 :

#### (a) SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS :

AREA.	HOUSES.			Tres-passers	Families.	Persons.
	1937	1948	1951			
The Latt (5)	18	11	9	0	13	48
The Latt (5a)	6	6	0	0	0	0
Philip Court (9)	5	5	3	1	4	10
Allens Court (12a)	6	5	4	0	5	15
Savours Court (12b)	4	4	3	0	3	7
Cornish Court (12c)	5	4	3	0	5	13
Zoar Row (13)	20	19	16	0	17	43
Marsh Buildings (20)	4	3	2	0	2	9
Thomas Court (21)	8	6	6	1	8	18
Prices Place (22)	6	2	0	0	0	0
Penydre House (25)	4	3	4	4	7	25
High Street, etc (26)	12	9	9	0	11	31
Gold Street (27)	6	4	4	0	4	17
Gold Street (28)	6	5	5	1	6	10
Castle Street (29)	12	8	4	1	5	13
Castle Buildings (30)	8	8	6	0	8	19
	130	102	78	8	98	278

## (b) INDIVIDUAL HOUSES OCCUPIED, 1951 :

ADDRESS.	Houses.	Tres-passers.	Families	Persons
119a, London Road .....	1	0	1	5
13, Bnsh Row .....	1	0	2	4
15, Ritson Street. ....	1	0	1	2
36, & 37, Penydre. ....	2	0	2	7
5, Lime Court, The Green .....	1	0	2	6
Rock Cottage, Foundry Road ....	1	0	2	8
65, Water Street .....	1	1	1	4
4 & 5, Arthurs Court .....	2	2	2	8
60, 62, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, & 70, The Square .....	8	8	8	30
	18	11	21	74

## (c) A. T. S. CAMP, DWRYFELIN, OCCUPIED, 1951 :

Huts.	Trespassers	Families.	Persons
10	10	10	56

**RE-HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.**

The following families are to be re-housed from houses which are subject to slum Clearance and Demolition Orders and from the huts at Dwryfelin:—

	Occupied	Tres-passers	Total Families	Total Persons
(a) Clearance Areas .....	78	8	98	278
(b) Individual Houses .....	18	11	21	74
(c) Huts .....	10	10	10	56
	106	29	129	408

An examination of the above tables shows that the number of families is in excess of the premises occupied and, with the exception of those at Dwryfelin, are relatively small in size. In several instances the tenant is only one person (*e.g.* father or mother of the sub-tenant or his wife) and in such cases, it is to be presumed that they will be asked to go together. I cannot see in which other way it can be done and it should be mentioned that, through the action of the House Letting Sub-Committee, most of the recognised double or more families in these groups have been dealt with. Transfers or movements within an area, as temporary relief, have been granted in 8 cases.

**OVERCROWDING 1951.**  
*Particulars of Overcrowding.*

TABLE 1. OVERCROWDING RECORDS.

WARD	1936		1951	
	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
NORTH .....	186		68	352
SOUTH .....	142		71	401
BRITON FERRY .....	84		28	163
COUNCIL HOUSES .....	25		31	204
	437	2553	198	1120

TABLE 2. NEW CASES DURING THE YEAR.

WARD.	<i>Families.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>
NORTH	8	34
SOUTH	27	143
BRITON FERRY	3	11
COUNCIL HOUSES	16	82
	54	270

TABLE 3. REASONS FOR NEW CASES OF OVERCROWDING.

	<i>Families.</i>
Sub-Tenants	53
Natural Increases in Family	1
	54

TABLE 4. DE-CROWDED FAMILIES, 1951.

WARD.	<i>Families</i>	<i>Persons</i>
NORTH.....	9	46
SOUTH	13	71
BRITON FERRY	7	27
COUNCIL HOUSES	6	28
	35	172

TABLE 5. ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING :

	<i>Council Houses</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Briton Ferry</i>
Transferred to Council Property	6	9	13	7

TABLE 6. POSITION OF OVERCROWDED HOUSES, 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

WARD.	Houses	Persons in Houses	Families over crowded	Persons involved
NORTH	106	449	68	352
SOUTH	119	536	71	401
BRITON FERRY	41	201	28	163
COUNCIL HOUSES	52	260	31	204
	318	1446	198	1120

## HOUSING STATISTICS, 1951.

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(i)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) .....	1450
(ii)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	5142
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses (included under (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	7
(iv)	Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	7
(v)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	7
(vi)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	493

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	76
---	----

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .....	0
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	493
	2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:	
	(i) By owners .....	482
	(ii) By Local Authority .....	0
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 .....	7
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 .....	0

## 4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

(a)	1. Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year .....	198
	2. Number of families dwelling therein. ....	318



	3.	Number of persons dwelling therein .....	1446
(b)	1.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	54
	2.	Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	270
(c)	1.	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	35
	2.	Number of persons concerned with such cases .....	172
(d)	1.	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become over-crowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....	0

#### 5. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS :

	1.	Number of Council houses found to be :	
	(a)	Infested .....	2
	(b)	Disinfested .....	2
	2.	Number of other houses found to be :	
	(a)	Infested .....	13
	(b)	Disinfested .....	13

The methods available for the elimination of the bed bug are, briefly, by the use of fumigants and sprays. Of the fumigants, Hydrogen Cyanide is still rated high and disinfestation of any infested house by same calls for caution and skill. Great strides have been made through the experience of war in the development and use of insecticides, notably D.D.T. and it is now possible to achieve excellent results by their use. The procedure carried out in the Borough is fumigation by "Thermatox" where premises can be vacated and spraying with approved insecticides containing D.D.T. and Pyrethrum, in other cases.

### GENERAL.

#### 1. Housing.

Further progress was made in the erection of houses, 168 houses being built, 146 permanent prefabricated dwellings, 7 of the traditional type by the Council, and 15 by private enterprise. The department continued its activities in relation to house-letting and hundreds of investigations into conditions of applicants were made and reported upon. In addition, the meetings of the House-Letting Sub-Committee were attended. There are still 129 families living in condemned houses and huts, 198 families in overcrowded conditions, and to this can be added another 500 families in occupation of sub-standard houses in the Borough.

#### 2. Food Poisoning.

There was no case of Food Poisoning reported during 1951, and it is pleasing to record that the Borough has been singularly free in this respect.

#### 3. Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

(a) Nine cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were investigated at the request of the Medical Officer of Health. A complete link-up exists between the Department, the State Veterinary Service and the Public Health Laboratory, and includes milk-sampling, notification of condemned carcasses from tuberculosis, with the veterinary history of the animals

#### (b) Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis :

Enquiries were made into one case and a special report submitted to the Medical Officer of Health.

#### 4. Special Features.

(a) COMMON LODGING HOUSES : There was a reduction in the number of lodgers throughout the year ; on the 31st December, 1951, 90 of the 134 beds were occupied, whereas on the same night in 1950, 112 were in occupation.

(b) **FOOD & DRUGS** : The number of samples submitted for analysis was 203, and of the 95 milk samples, none were adulterated. It will be observed that there was an increase in the number adulterated by infestation and rancidity. A standard for ice-cream was fixed for the first time.

(c) **MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT** : The various Orders relating to the marking of imported foods with the "country of origin" were again put into operation during the year.

(d) **GRADED MILKS** : There was a marked increase in the number of licences issued for the sale of graded milks in the Borough ; 47 in 1951 as compared with 34 in 1950 and 11 in 1949. An examination of the table on the testing of graded milks shows an exceptionally low percentage of sub-standard milks.

(e) **SLAUGHTERING** : The number of animals slaughtered, 54,960, was below the previous two years and was undoubtedly caused through the opening of Cwrt Herbert. The through-put at your slaughterhouse was the third largest in Wales, following Cardiff and Swansea. There was an improvement in the quality of rationed meat, particularly in beef, due to a higher percentage of prime animals killed. The table on *Cysticercus Bovis* shows a further 23 cases discovered during meat inspection. The Ministry of Food officials expressed their appreciation of the work of your Sanitary Inspectors, all of whom are qualified meat inspectors.

(f) **SALE OF ICE-CREAM** : There has been a steady increase in the number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream. The percentage of unsatisfactory samples was 17, as compared with 60 in 1947, which indicates the improvements in plant, quality of ingredients and methods of manufacture, storing and sale. A chemical standard for ice-cream was fixed for the first time.

(g) **CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS** : It will be observed that 2,233 lbs. of cooked ham, of continental origin was condemned during 1951.

(h) **RODENT CONTROL** : The Council decided in October, 1950, not to charge for services to dwelling-houses, excepting where there could be proved neglect by owners and occupiers. It is significant that whereas only 26 dwelling-houses were treated in 1950, there were 199 in 1951.

(i) **Work carried out by Borough Engineer's Department** : The work carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department proved of great assistance in the abatement of serious nuisances.

(j) **SPECIAL REPORTS:—**

- (1) **Pantho welldu**—A report was made on the water supply, sanitary accommodation and alleged dust nuisance.
- (2) **Trick's Field**—Work of large scale land drainage was carried out with the assistance of the Land Drainage Department and the District Engineer's Department of the British Railways.
- (3) **Statutory Nuisance**—After great difficulty the establishment of an offensive trade was prevented. It meant many appearances in Court and eventually the burning of the ~~accommodation~~ <sup>accumulation</sup> and the cleansing of the site.
- (4) **Civil Defence**—The Civil Defence Committee were kept informed of all aspects relative to my duties as Executive Officer.
- (5) **Exchange of Toys**—Proceedings were taken in respect of two cases of exchanging toys for old clothing received from children.
- (6) **Rag Flock, etc.**—A report was submitted on the provisions of the Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.



(k) **Burial of the Dead** : As you are aware under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the disposal of unclaimed bodies in your area (excluding Hospitals) has now become a duty of this Department. In this connection 12 cases were reported for burial and, after detailed investigation, 9 were considered to come within the provisions of the Act. These were resident in private houses in various parts of the Borough but were principally inmates of Common Lodging Houses and burial was carried out by your Burials Contractor.

(l) **Atmospheric Pollution** : The recording of rainfall, solids collected and sulphur deposited, was contained for the twelve months January—December, 1951. The special examinations were made by the Public Health Laboratory, and covered the first 26 months, November, 1949—December, 1951. The observations are noted on standard forms, supplied by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, to whom copies were sent for inclusion in their monthly "Summary of Observations" which is distributed as a Bulletin to co-operating bodies, the Council being a Member and represented by the Chairman of the Health Committee and the Chief Sanitary Inspector. There are two national organisations dealing with the abatement of smoke, fumes and grit, *viz.*, the Department referred to above and the National Smoke Abatement Society, of which the Council is also a Member.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

#### SUMMARY OF RECORDINGS, 1949 (*Part*), 1950 and 1951.

YEAR.	Month.	Rainfall (inches)	Total solids in Tons per sq. mile	Sulphur(SO <sub>3</sub> ) Max. Day Pollu- tion per 1,000 sq. cms.	Interpre- tation
1949	November	6.45	20.60	10.6	"B"
"	December	5.22	28.30	12.6	"B"
1950	January	1.69	14.03	8.5	"B"
"	February	7.31	23.86	9.8	"B"
"	March	2.97	9.87	6.9	"A"
"	April	4.19	17.99	8.0	"B"
"	May	1.57	9.63	4.4	"A"
"	June	2.63	11.70	3.6	"A"
"	July	5.46	15.44	3.6	"B"
"	August	9.65	16.71	4.5	"B"
"	September	9.65	33.05	8.8	"B"
"	October	3.42	15.44	9.9	"B"
"	November	7.28	14.27	9.6	"B"
"	December	3.72	9.70	10.2	"A"
1951	January	7.23	17.74	15.40	"B"
"	February	4.96	14.62	11.60	"B"
"	March	5.63	15.61	8.10	"B"
"	April	4.52	15.37	7.10	"B"
"	May	2.98	6.91	3.60	"A"
"	June	1.88	14.55	4.80	"B"
"	July	1.15	14.20	4.10	"B"
"	August	10.29	24.60	3.60	"B"
"	September	5.50	14.75	4.40	"B"
"	October	0.98	7.94	4.60	"A"
"	November	10.18	20.63	7.10	"B"
"	December	5.36	36.62	7.70	"B"

These results, for practical purposes, are interpreted as :

"A"	.....	Clean
"B"	.....	Fairly Clean
"C"	.....	Dirty
"D"	.....	Very Dirty.

For the twenty-six months under review, six months were considered "A" and twenty months as "B", which are satisfactory, having regard to the industrial nature of the Borough.

Copies of the monthly reports were exhibited at the two libraries, in accordance with the Council's instructions.

I desire to express my thanks to the Members of the Council, the Medical Officer and the Staff of the Department and Officials of the Corporation for their assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EVAN THOMAS,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*



